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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

GREGORY J. ROSINE
DIRECTOR

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TO: ALL COUNTIES, CITIES, AND VILLAGES

Currently, there are two options for measurement units used to develop a set of construction plans. The 2003 Interim Standard Specifications for Construction should be the primary reference for developing construction plans. Starting in October 2002, any plans developed in English are required to refer to the 2003 Interim Standard Specifications for Construction. Projects referencing the previous English specifications (1990 Standard Specifications for Construction) will not be accepted. Local agencies should start design of new projects using English units rather than metric units.

The Local Agency Programs staff will be discussing your upcoming work plans for Fiscal 2003 with your agency. At that time, any project which is already being designed in metric units will not be converted to English. A listing of metric projects will be established. Additions to the list will require justification to the Local Agency Programs staff engineer. A determination will be made whether the project can remain metric or will require conversion to English units.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) updates the most current Standard Specifications for Construction using frequently used Supplemental Specifications and frequently used Special Provisions. The older versions of the specification book are not always updated with the same information. The metric specifications become out-of-date with current practice and difficult to enforce. In many cases, the pay item list is not revised in the metric version.

In addition, the average unit price semi-annual reports will eventually only be generated in English units. Therefore, all the pay items need to be converted to English prior to pricing the pay items. If a conversion error is made, it could significantly affect the price of the project (higher or lower). These errors may lead to significant extras/overruns during the construction phase of the project.

Please feel free to contact me, at (517) 335-2233, if you have any questions regarding this requirement. We will work with your agency to provide a smooth transition from metric to English. We will not allow projects which are to be advertised in FY 2004 to be in metric units unless the project has been identified and agreed upon by the Local Agency Program staff this year.

Sincerely,

Rudolph S. Cadena, P.E.
Local Agency Programs Engineer
Local Agency Programs